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December 10, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

DEC 10 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Salas:

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication
Telephone Number Portability (CC Docket No. 95-116)**

Dear Ms. Salas:

On December 9, 1998, Bruce Beard and Michael Bennett of Southwestern Bell Wireless, and I met with Yog Varma (Common Carrier Bureau), David Furth (Wireless Telecommunications Bureau), Jeanine Poltronieri (Wireless Telecommunications Bureau) and Blaise Scinto (Common Carrier Bureau/Network Services Division) to discuss the above-referenced docket. Bruce Beard and Michael Bennett also met with David Furth in a separate meeting held on the same day.

The purpose of the meetings was to highlight issues in support of CTIA's petition for forbearance from the wireless number portability requirement as well as to discuss the issue of number pooling. The points addressed in the meetings are set forth in the attached handout, which was distributed to all of the participants.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b), two copies of this notice are being submitted to the Secretary. Please

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
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stamp and return the attached duplicate for our records. If you have any questions, please contact me at the above-referenced number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela N. Watkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Angela N. Watkins

Attachment

cc: Yog Varma
David Furth
Jeanine Poltronieri
Blaise Scinto

Wireless Number Portability Forbearance Petition

SBC WIRELESS INC.

DECEMBER 9, 1998

CONCERNS REGARDING IMPACT ON NUMBER ADMINISTRATION ARE UNWARRANTED

- Forbearance will not detrimentally impact number administration**
- Wireless inability to participate in pooling because of lack of Number Portability will not detrimentally impact efficient Number Administration**
- Detrimental impact of proceeding with wireless number portability at this time far outweighs unwarranted speculation about forbearance effect on Number Administration**

CMRS POOLING IS NOT CRITICAL TO EFFICIENT NUMBER ADMINISTRATION

- **Efficiencies available through landline pooling-
-assigning numbers in less than full NXXs**
- **Primary basis for pooling is CLECs claimed
need to emulate LEC rate centers-need NXX
presence in each rate center**
- **Pooling by landline does create efficiencies in
number administration**
- **Efficiencies from landline pooling does not
equate to efficiencies from wireless pooling**

CMRS POOLING IS NOT CRITICAL TO EFFICIENT NUMBER ADMINISTRATION

- **Can implement pooling without CMRS participation**
- **Wireless' Potential Contribution to Pooling Is Basically Non-Existent**
 - **CMRS providers do not need to emulate landline rate center-use not bound by landline rate centers-few rate centers-few pools to contribute to**
 - **CMRS carriers use numbers more efficiently assign anywhere within service area-will continue to efficiently use full NXXs-normally 70-80%**

Each Rate Center Represents a Separate Pool of Numbers

- **54 NPAs in California, Nevada, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas**
- **Average Number of Rate Centers--82**
- **Average Number of Rate Centers Where LNP Deployed--51**
- **Each Rate Center equals a pool of numbers--on average have 51 separate pools**

Wireless will be Contributing/Drawing from very few pools

- **84% of NPAs Cell/PCS get NXXs out of one rate center**
- **97% of NPAs Cell/PCS gets NXXs out of 3 or fewer rate centers**
- **84% of time cell/PCS will impact only one pool of numbers--that is one rate center**

Impact is Further Diminished by Wireless' Efficient Use of Numbers

- **Use of wireless numbers is not tied to geographic confines of a rate center--greater than 84% of time serve entire NPA out of one rate center--no stranded numbers**
- **PrimeCo notes that they “have had little difficulty using its NXX blocks to at least 80-90% before opening a NXX block” PrimeCo Comments, p. 16.**
- **Data SBC Wireless supplied in area code relief proceedings in Missouri, Texas and Massachusetts (214, 314, 508, 617, 781, 972 and 978) indicate an overall utilization of over 80%**

Competitive Benefits of Forbearance Should Not be Forfeited by Mere Speculation

- **There is no evidence that wireless carriers will, after 15 years of operating their networks, suddenly create numerous rate centers in each NPA**
 - **No reason to do so**
 - **Withdraw of reverse billing options do not equate to a need for numerous rate centers,**
 - **more practical solutions exist**
 - **such options normally involve non-LNP areas**

Competitive Benefits of Forbearance Should Not be Forfeited because of Pooling Concerns

- **Criteria for granting forbearance has been met--the grant is in the public interest and will enhance competition. The grant should not be withheld based on speculative unwarranted number pooling concerns**
 - **if number pooling is now the basis for requiring wireless number portability why is any carrier exempt from number portability requirements?**
 - **Is the cost to the the public in the form of diminished competition and to the wireless industry, including rural carriers not in the top 100 RSAs who will need to incur costs to make necessary changes in order to continue to support automatic roaming, really worth the minimal contribution, if any, wireless pooling will make in a few select rate centers?**